



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

COOS BAY DISTRICT OFFICE

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EA OR128-01-15

Decision Record for Log Yarding and Skidding From a Powerline Right-of-Way DNA No. 1 to EA OR128-02-15

Background:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Coos Bay District previously prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA OR128-98-09) and Finding of No Significant Impact to evaluate the effects of skidding and yarding down logs from powerline rights-of-way. The EA analyzed a Proposed Action alternative and a No Action alternative. A thirty-day comment period ended on June 20, 2002. Two comments were received: one pertained to the removal of trees under Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) lines and the other expressed concern over the removal of green trees. Because this DNA does not involve BPA lines nor does it propose to remove green trees, these comments were dismissed from consideration.

Survey and Manage:

There are no known locations for Survey and Manage plant or wildlife species in the vicinity of the proposed project area. Furthermore, pre-disturbance surveys are not required for activities associated with the maintenance of powerline right-of-ways according to the Record of Decision and Standard and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines (Interagency 2001).

The project would constitute a "may effect but not likely to adversely affect" for noise disturbance to marbled murrelets. In compliance with US Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Opinion #1-7-98-F-079, daily timing restrictions will apply due to the presence of unsurveyed suitable murrelet habitat within 0.25 miles of the eastern portion of the powerline. No other Special Status Species are known to be in the project area.

Decision:

My decision is to adopt the Proposed Action of EA OR128-02-15 for the removal of down logs from a powerline right-of-way as described in DNA No. 1 for the Umpqua

Field Office and recommendations from specialist reports. Design features are accepted as described therein, including:

- Operations will be limited to dry weather conditions;
- If potential cultural resources are encountered during the project, all work in the vicinity will stop and the District Archeologist will be notified immediately;
- If any Survey and Manage or Special Status species are found, the appropriate management guidelines will be followed to avoid adverse impacts;
- Vehicles and machinery will be washed prior to entering BLM lands and are required to stay within road right-of-ways, unless specifically designated to operate within units;
- To eliminate the need for slash disposal treatments at the proposed landing site adjacent to McKinley County Road, the operator will remove the tops and limbs from the logs prior to moving them to the landing site. Tops and limbs will be scattered to avoid heavy accumulations; and
- If any exposed soils result, they will be mulched and seeded with native vegetation stock or an approved BLM seed mixture.

Rationale for Decision:

The proposed action would provide logs for the restoration of stream habitats to benefit fisheries and other aquatic species and help to ensure their persistence within the landscape. In addition, sale of a portion of the logs will contribute to the local economy.

Monitoring:

The BLM Project Inspector (P.I.) providing oversight for the project contract will perform compliance monitoring of the Proposed Action. It is the P.I.'s responsibility to ensure compliance with contractual stipulations, including design features.

Decision Recommended by:

NRSA Kathy Wall: /s/ Kathy Wall Date: 9/10/20

NRSA Ralph Thomas: /s/ Ralph Thomas Date: 9/13/2002

NRSA Steve Fowler: /s/ Steve Fowler Date: 9/12/2002

Decision Approved by:

Umpqua Field Office Manager
Elaine Raper: /s/ M. Elaine Raper Date: 9/13/2002